

Randall Creek Fish Barrier Screen Project Environmental Assessment

Decision Notice

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
1400 South 19th Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59718

September 1, 2005

Description of the Proposed Action:

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) proposes to install a cross-channel screen in Randall Creek, a tributary of the Gallatin River located near Manhattan, Montana, to block fish movement past the point of installation. This screen will be sized, positioned, and intentionally designed to physically prevent fish movement in both upstream and downstream directions. The screen is necessary to prevent the expansion of Northern Pike (*Esox lucius*) into areas other than the upper end of Randall Creek where pike are already established as the result of an earlier unauthorized introduction.

Public Comment:

Public notification of the availability of an Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating this proposed action was published in the Bozeman Chronicle and the Belgrade News and on the FWP website.

No public comments concerning this Draft EA were received during a comment period running from July 5 to August 3, 2005.

Decision:

Based on analyses in the Draft EA, and lack of public response, I find that installation of the fish screen barrier is the appropriate alternative. I have evaluated the draft document and applicable laws, regulations, and policies, and have determined that this action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. The completed environmental assessment is an appropriate level of analysis to identify and address all significant issues associated with this project. For this reason, an EIS will not be prepared.

There are no modifications necessary to the Draft Environmental Assessment. The Draft Environmental Assessment, together with this Decision Notice, will serve as the final document for this proposal.

The Final EA and the Decision Notice for this project is available from Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Region Three Headquarters, 1400 South 19th Avenue, Bozeman, MT 59718, or online at: <http://www.fwp.mt.gov/publicnotices>.

Please direct all inquiries to FWP Region Three Headquarters c/o Randall Creek EA, at the address provided above.

Patrick J. Flowers
Region Three Supervisor